

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8230

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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AMCONSUL MADRAS

CONFIDENTIAL BOMBAY 1125

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MNUC, TECH, IN

SUBJ: FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO KALPAKKAM NUCLEAR FACILITY

JEF: A) STATE 113295 B) NEW DELHI 7171

CONGEN DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WITH IAEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA TODAY. HE CONFIRMED THAT FRENCH ASSISTANCE AT KALPAKKAM NUCLEAR FACILITY IS CONFINED TO THE FAST BREEDER TEST REACTOR THERE AND THAT FRANCE HAS NOT GIVEN ANY ASSISTANCE FOR FUEL REPROCESSING. THE KALPAKKAM REACTOR RESEARCH CENTER CONTAINS A REPROCESSING LABORATORY WHERE SOME R&D WORK IS DONE BUT THE FRENCH HAVE NOT ASSISTED IN THIS ACTIVITY. SETHNA AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS ACCURATE AND WOULD CAUSE NO DIFFICULTY FOR THE IAEC IF RELEASED BY DEPARTMENT.

QUOTE:

INDIA'S FAST BREEDER TEST REACTOR AT KALPAKKAM IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU IS BEING BUILT FROM AN CONFIDENTIAL

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INDIGENOUS DESIGN AND A LARGE NUMBER OF KEY COMPONENTS ARE BEING MANUFACTURED LOCALLY. FRANCE IS PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THIS PROJECT. FOR INSTANCE, TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE INDIAN MANUFACTUER'S TECHNICIANS AND ENGINEERS WERE PROVIDED IN FRANCE.

INDIA HAS ONLY TWO FUEL REPROCESSING PLANTS; ONE IS LOCATED AT THE BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE AT TROMBAY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BOMBAY AND THE OTHER AT TARAPUR, NEAR THE GE-BUILD POWER REACTORS IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA. BOTH OF THESE REPROCESSING PLANTS WERE BUILT BY INDIA WITHOUT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO NEED FOR INDIA TO SEEK FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR ANOTHER REPROCESSING PLANT IF REQUIRED FOR THE MADRAS ATOMIC POWER REACTORS (NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION) OR FOR THE PLANNED FAST BREEDER POWER REACTORS.

UNQUOTE.
COURTNEY

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NNN

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